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MIDDLE EAST TROUBLE SPOTS

Long relatively quiet, the Middle East area still has many basic troublespots which could present the US with difficult decisions at any time.

a. Continuing heavy Soviet arms deliveries to Egypt and Iraq, plus Israeli nuclear weapons potential, is keeping the Arab-Israeli situation volatile;

b. Breakup of the UAR and UAS, resulting in intensified inter-Arab bickering, is likely to lead to increased subversive activities in a wide area; there are many vulnerable targets:

(1) new Syrian Government, aged King in Libya, royal family disharmony in Saudi Arabia, Qasim's shaky position in Iraq.

(2) religious bitterness is still deep in Lebanon; reversion to large-scale violence would be easy as a result of such developments as the recent abortive coup.

(3) Iraq-Kuwait situation will remain live; British ability to handle it indefinitely is not good;

c. Public dissatisfaction is widespread in Iran and Turkey both obviously are high priority targets of the Soviets;

d. Tensions between Pakistan and its neighbors Afghanistan and India are rising again as a result of "Pushtoonistan" and Kashmir quarrels;

e. Afghanistan is increasing its dependence on the USSR.

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